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CIA - NICARAGUA
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A senior Senate Democrat and a branch of the American are calling for an investigation of the CIA's reported rebels on how to lobby members of Congress, an action that is an illegal domestic covert operation.

In a letter to CIA Director William J. Casey, Sen. D-N.Y., vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, asked Congress "targeted" for lobbying and "the characterization of members."

Moynihan said that "if substantially accurate, these charges reflect an invasion of the privacy of members of Congress and improper conduct about which the intelligence oversight committees of the Congress have to inquire."

In coaching rebel leaders on dealing with Congress, one CIA officer reportedly described Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, D-N.Y., as "very, very liberal" and "impressionable on religious issues."

The contents of Moynihan's letter, dated Nov. 9, were disclosed Thursday by a Senate aide, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified.

Meanwhile, in letters to the oversight committees and the CIA, the ACLU's Center for National Security Studies said Thursday that the alleged coaching would violate President Reagan's 1981 executive order on intelligence activities and a law requiring that Congress be notified of "significant" CIA actions.

The Reagan executive order bars the CIA from engaging in covert activities "intended to influence United States political processes, public opinion, policies or media."

CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson said the agency had no comment.

The CIA already is under congressional investigation for its role in producing a manual that advises Nicaraguan rebels in the "selective use of violence" to "neutralize" officials of the leftist Sandinista government.

According to one congressional source, House Intelligence Committee investigators began on Wednesday interviewing the mid-level CIA personnel who were disciplined by the spy agency in connection with the 90-page manual, entitled "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla War."

Several of the six punished officials have refused to sign papers accepting the discipline, claiming they are being made "scapegoats" to protect senior CIA officials, sources within the Reagan administration and Congress said.

Three of the officials were given letters of reprimand, two were suspended without pay and the manual's author, identified by the pseudonym John Kirkpatrick, was allowed to resign from his CIA contract.

The letters from Moynihan and the ACLU center cited a Nov. 1 New York Times article based on an interview with Edgar Chamorro, propaganda chief for the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force, known by its Spanish initials FDN.

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